

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 01091 090308Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SCS-01 CA-01 HA-02 INR-05
CIAE-00 L-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 /035 W
-----025679 090319Z /63/73

O R 082115Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0431
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 1091

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CASC, ES, CS
SUBJECT: RICHARDSON CASE

1. EX-SALVADORAN GUARDIA NACIONAL SERGEANT SANTOS VICTORIANO HERNANDEZ APPEARED AT CONSULATE MARCH 7 CLAIMING TO HAVE FIRST HAND INFORMATION ON THE DEATH AS RESULT OF TORTURE OF US CITIZEN RONALD RICHARDSON. EMBOFF AND CONSOFF INTERVIEWED HERNANDEZ, WHO DICTATED AND SIGNED A STATEMENT CONTAINING HIS ACCOUNT OF HOW RICHARDSON DIED IN THE "SOTANO" OF NATIONAL GUARD HEADQUARTERS AFTER HAVING BEEN TORTURED BY GUARD PERSONNEL FOR A MONTH AND A HALF IN MID 1976.

2. IN HIS STATEMENT HERNANDEZ, WHO ASKED THAT HIS NAME BE PROTECTED, SAID THAT HE WAS AN EYEWITNESS TO THE TORTURE OF RICHARDSON AND THAT HE SAW RICHARDSON'S BATTERED CORPSE MOVED FROM GUARD HEADQUARTERS TO AN AMBULANCE VEHICLE FOR DISPOSAL. HE GAVE THE NAMES OF OTHER EYEWITNESSES HE IDENTIFIED AS GUARD PERSONNEL. HE IMPLICATED HIGH LEVEL GOES AUTHORIT-
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IESGE HERNANDEZ ALSO CLAIMED TO HAVE GIVEN SOME INFORMATION ON RICHARDSON CASE TO US OFFICIALS IN SALVADOR. TEXT OF HERNANDEZ' STATEMENT BEING TRANSMITTED SEPTEL.

3. SINCE HERNANDEZ' ORIGINAL STATEMENT IS VWNUE IN SOME PARTS, ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATIONS OF SOME DETAILS WAS PROVIDED IN SECOND MEETING WHEN HE APPEARED TO SIGN DICTATED

STATEMENT MARCH 8. IN THESE RESPONSES HE DETAILED TORTURE METHODS, GAVE NAMES OF TORTURERS AND OTHERS WHO SAW RICHARDSON'S BODY, CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN THERE WHEN RICHARDSON WAS INTERROGATED BY HIGH LEVEL GOES OFFICIALS, PROVIDED DETAILS ON REMOVAL OF RICHARDSON'S BODY FROM GUARD HEADQUARTERS, AND SERVED UP NAMES OF OTHER GUARD PERSONNEL WITNESSES, SOME OF WHOM, HE SAID HAVE SINCE LEFT SALVADOR. THESE ADDITIONAL DETAILS ARE BEING TRANSCRIBED AND WILL BE TRANSMITTED AFTER HERNANDEZ REVIEWS THEM FOR ACCURACY ON MARCH 9.

4. HERNANDEZ SAYS HE AND HIS WIFE WILL PROCEED TO PANAMA NEXT WEEK WHERE HE HOPES TO GET WORK AS A SPECIALIZED SEAMAN (HIS PASSPORT SAYS HE IS AN ELECTRIC WELDER). HE SAID HE IS AVAILABLE FOR FURTHER CONSULTATION WITH US OFFICIALS IF DESIRED. HE SAYS THAT HE WILL BE CALLING ON CONSULATE AFTER HIS ARRIVAL.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE ADVICE AND INSTRUCTIONS SHOULD DEPARTMENT OR EMBASSY SAN SALVADOR WANT EMBASSY TO PURSUE THIS MATTER FURTHER BEFORE HERNANDEZ' DEPARTURE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MURDER, INVESTIGATIONS, INFORMANTS, DEPOSITIONS
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Draft Date: 08 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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